1. (AMENDED) A stackable crate for holding and transporting products comprising:

a side wall integrally formed with a bottom surface, the side wall formed so that at least a portion of an opening in the crate has a larger dimension than the bottom surface; and

a drag rail formed on an underside portion of the bottom surface and positioned inward of an outer peripheral support surface of the crate, the side wall formed so that a top surface of the side wall would contact an outer peripheral support surface of a like crate stacked thereon,

wherein a portion of an inner surface of the side wall is formed to reduce the dimension of the crate opening in at least one selected area so as to provide a tighter fit with a drag rail of the like crate stacked thereon.

Please add the following new claims:

25. (NEW) The stackable crate of claim 1 wherein an inner surface of the side wall angles outwardly as the side wall extends upwardly from the bottom surface to enlarge a top opening of the crate, and the at least one selected area comprises a portion of the inner surface of the side wall angled less outwardly.

26. (NEW) The stackable crate of claim 25 wherein a thickness of the side wall decreases as the side wall extends upwardly from the bottom surface to enlarge a top opening of the crate, and the at least one selected area comprises a portion of the side wall where the thickness is reduced less.

27. (NEW) The stackable crate of claim 25 wherein at least one portion of an upper edge of the side wall is vertically aligned with at least one portion of a lower edge of the side wall, such that the side wall would support a side wall of an identical crate stacked on top of the crate and such that side walls of identical, stacked crates would not nest one within the other.

28. (NEW) The stackable crate of claim 27 wherein the side wall meets the bottom surface at a lower corner of the crate, the drag rail protruding downward from the underside of the bottom surface at the lower corner.

29. (NEW) The stackable crate of claim 28 wherein an outer surface of the side wall is generally perpendicular to the bottom surface.

30. (NEW) The crate of claim 7 wherein the drag rail protrudes downward from the underside portion of the bottom surface inward of the outer edge of the crate, the side wall meeting the bottom surface at a lower corner of the crate, the drag rail protruding downward from the underside of the bottom surface at the lower corner, the side wall further including a contact surface on a lower edge of the side wall and outward of the drag rail at the lower corner, the contact surface dimensioned so as to rest on a top surface of a side wall of an identical crate.

31. (NEW) The crate of claim 30, wherein the inner side wall surface is formed as a variable radius blend into the bottom surface sufficient to position a portion of the side wall over the drag rail.

32. (NEW) First and second identical stacked crates for holding and transporting products each comprising:

a side wall integrally formed with a bottom surface, an inner surface of the side wall moving outwardly from a vertical plane as the side wall extends upwardly from the bottom surface to enlarge a top opening of the crate, at least one selected area of the side wall comprising a portion of the inner surface of the side wall formed to reduce the dimension of the crate opening at the at least one selected area;

a drag rail extending from an underside portion of the bottom surface, the drag rail positioned inward of an outer peripheral edge of the crate; and

the first crate supported on a top surface of the side wall of the second crate with the drag rail of the first crate positioned inward of the side wall and the at least one selected area of the second crate so as to provide a tighter fit between the drag rail of the first crate and the at least one selected area of the second crate.

33. (NEW) The first and second crates of claim 32 wherein the side wall of the first crate is positioned directly on top of and supported by the side wall of the second crate, and wherein the drag rail of the first crate is positioned adjacent the side wall of the second crate.

34. (NEW) The first and second crates of claim 33 wherein at least a portion of the side wall of the first crate is positioned directly on top of both the side wall of the second crate and the drag rail of the first crate.

35. (NEW) A stackable crate for holding and transporting products comprising:

a plurality of side walls generally perpendicular to and integrally formed with a bottom surface, an inner surface of each of the side walls moving outwardly from a vertical plane as the side wall extends upwardly from the bottom surface to enlarge an upper opening of the crate, at least one portion of an upper edge of each of the side walls being vertically aligned with at least one portion of a lower edge of the each of the side walls; and

a drag rail formed on an underside portion of the bottom surface and positioned inward of an outer periphery of the lower edges of the plurality of sidewalls,

wherein a portion of the inner surface of at least one of the side walls is formed to reduce the dimension of the upper opening of the crate in at least one selected area so as to provide a tighter fit with a drag rail of an identical crate stacked thereon.

36. (NEW) The stackable crate of claim 35 wherein a thickness of each of the side walls is reduced as the side wall extends upwardly from the bottom surface.

37. (NEW) The stackable crate of claim 36 wherein the at least one selected area is formed reducing the thickness of the side wall less.

38. (NEW) The stackable crate of claim 36 wherein the inner surface of each of the side walls is formed to position at least a portion of the side wall over the drag rail.

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39. (NEW) The stackable crate of claim 38, wherein the inner surface of the side wall is formed as a variable radius blend into the bottom surface sufficient to position a portion of the side wall over the drag rail.